

A VISION OF THE BLACKSTONE VALLEY CORRIDOR IN THE YEAR 2020

The Blackstone Valley Corridor encompasses **preserved Mill Villages** such as Manville, Saylesville, Ashton and Lonsdale which showcase the unique architectural style, cultural quality and sense of community retained through **mixed-use development** creating vibrant and **economically energized Village Centers**. The **re-urbanized** communities of Central Falls, Pawtucket, Valley Falls and Woonsocket provide a range of improved housing consistent with its historical context and dynamic and diverse community composition. Re-introduction of train service in Central Falls and Pawtucket assists in the revitalization of these older cities.

While a high quality of life is preserved, **improved economic opportunities** are realized through regional **planning of developed** transportation options including rail, bus, bikeways and pedestrian walkways **integrating linkages between Massachusetts's and Rhode Island's transportation systems**. **MBTA stations** (such as Forge Park and South Attleboro) are served by RIPTA and public transit is improved between underserved communities such as Woonsocket, Smithfield, and Cumberland. Pedestrian movement is facilitated with crosswalks, sidewalks and better maintenance of walkways. Bike paths highlight this Corridor's natural features and points of interest.

Highway safety is increased through **enforcement of speed limits** and the elimination of **U-turn center median cuts**. **Access management** along this Corridor is implemented **reducing curb cuts** specifically along northern **Diamond Hill Road** and **Route 146**. Routes 146, 122 and 114 are redesigned with improved intersections and **increased left-turn storage lanes**. The **safety of pedestrians and bicyclists is improved** with sidewalks, crosswalks, bike pathways and improved street cleaning. **Route 99** continues to provide access to the **Woonsocket Industrial Park** and **Northern Cumberland**.

GOALS FOR BLACKSTONE VALLEY CORRIDOR

- ✓ **Maintain historic character** even as the Corridor develops. This Corridor must anticipate growth and **encourage 'good development'**. Development using sound planning tools and growth management and a regional planning approach will enhance the historic character while retaining village scale and character.
- ✓ **Preserve natural amenities** through an ongoing and sustained level of effort. In particular, this corridor described as 'a river runs through it' must be cognizant of the important scenic and recreational potential provided by Blackstone River.
- ✓ **Increase pedestrian and bike access and safety on existing roadways and establish linkages to other transportation options**. Enhanced safe passage for pedestrians and bikes includes upgrading sidewalks, crosswalks and **street maintenance**. These improvements will encourage increased usage of **alternative modes of transportation**.
- ✓ **Increase public transportation opportunities through regional planning** to Boston with RIPTA access to Massachusetts' Forge Park and South Attleboro MBTA stations, and to Providence through expanded RIPTA schedules.

- ✓ **Assess the feasibility of a train station** in Pawtucket/Central Falls.
- ✓ Enhance safety through speed limit and **traffic regulation enforcement**. Eliminate traffic conflicts caused by median turn-arounds, left hand turns and excessive curb cuts.